

SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year

1946

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SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

CLERK TO THE COUNCIL

Council Offices, Salcombe, S. Devon.

Telephone: Salcombe 208

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

CLERK TO M.O.H.

Miss Musgrave, 1.1.46 - 30.9.46.

Miss Eccles, 1.10.46.

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SANITARY INSPECTOR

Council Offices, Salcombe, S. Devon.

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SALCOMBE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S REPORT

for the YEAR ending DEC. 31st, 1946.

Medical Officer of Health: DR.W.C.SMALES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: DR.R.H.DUMMETT, M.B., Ch.B.

Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector: MR.R.LUSHER, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Assistant Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector : MR.H.C.YEOMAN, A.R.S.I.,
M.S.I.A.

MR. CHAIRMAN, GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present my Report for the year ending 31st December, 1946.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres) - 1,181.

Population - The Registrar General's estimate of the resident population - 2,458.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1946) according to the Rate Books - 781.

Rateable Value - £21,261.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate - £82.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births - Male 25. Female 17. Total 42.

Live (legitimate) - Male 22. Female 14. Total 36.

Live (illegitimate) - Male 3. Female 3. Total 6.

BIRTH RATE per 1,000 of the estimated population - ~~34.1~~ 17.08

STILL BIRTHS - Nil. Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births - ~~34.1~~ Nil

DEATHS - 32. Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population - 13.01

Deaths (from Puerperal Causes) - Nil.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age. All infants per 1,000 live births - ~~08.0~~ 23.80

Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births - 27.7

Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births - Nil.

Deaths from Heart Disease - 5.

Deaths from Influenza (all ages) - 2.

Deaths from Cancer - (all ages) - 6.

Deaths from Measles (all ages) - Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (All ages) - Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age) - Nil.

Deaths from Syphilitic Diseases - 1.

Deaths from Intra-Cranial Vascular lesions - 7.

The conditions of occupation and of environment have not had a prejudicial influence on the general health or mortality. Salcombe is well-known as a holiday resort and yachting centre. During the summer months - June to September - the population is practically doubled by the influx of visitors.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Public Health Officers of the Authority are a Medical Officer of Health (also Medical Officer of Health of the Plympton Rural and Kingsbridge Rural and Urban Districts, Kingsbridge and Salcombe Port Sanitary Authority and the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health (occasional).

One full-time Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

LABORATORY FACILITIES are provided by the County Council for the examination of milk and water in addition to the usual bacteriological examinations.

PROVISION OF ANTITOXIN - Medical men practising in the district can obtain a free supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin and Scarlatinal Serum. Material is also supplied for the immunisation of children of the district against Diphtheria free of cost.

THE SOUTH HAMS COTTAGE HOSPITAL provides 16 beds for patients from Kingsbridge and the surrounding district :-

Men's Ward	...	6 beds
Women's Ward	...	6 beds
Children's Cots	...	2
Private wards	...	2 (1 bed each)

It is supported by voluntary effort.

ISOLATION HOSPITAL - None in the district, but by arrangement with the Plymouth City Council, infectious cases requiring hospital treatment may be sent to the Swilly Isolation Hospital, Plymouth.

The arrangement referred to is provisional only, pending the completion and adoption of a Scheme under Section 63 of the Local Government Act, 1929, for the provision of hospital accommodation for this part of the Administrative County and which Scheme is in the course of preparation.

NURSING IN THE HOME - The Salcombe Nursing Association is doing excellent work.

No. of General Visits for the year were 1,426.

No. of Maternity Visits for the year were 493.

MIDWIVES - The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRE - There is a Centre in Salcombe which is open on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays in each month. The total attendances during the year were Mothers 299, Infants 254; and Toddlers 116.

VENEREAL DISEASES TREATMENT. At the Venereal Disease Department, City Hospital, Plymouth. Female in-patients are also sent to St. Mary's Home, Exeter. A refund of rail or 'bus fare can be made in suitable cases by applying to the Medical Officer of the Centre or to the County Medical Officer.

Treatment is also available from a certain number of selected General Medical Practitioners specially approved for the purpose by the County Council, and Ministry of Health. There is one such practitioner in Modbury and another at Kingsbridge.

ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT is available through the Devon Association for Orthopaedics as In-Patients at Exeter and Ivybridge; and for adults at Mount Gold Hospital, Plymouth. For Out-Patients there is a clinic at Kingsbridge and the South West Clinic which deals with this district as well is held at the Mutley Hall Assembly Rooms, Plymouth.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION. Close co-operation is maintained with the Devon County Council Health Visitors. The parent of every child in the district receives a birthday card for the child when he or she reaches one year, advising immunisation, the Health Visitor visits, follows up, and advises - every effort being made to get the child immunised. Frequent clinics are arranged in the district. The numbers for the year were as follows:- Complete dose 29; and reinforcement dose - 99.

DIPHTHERIA. I would emphasise that in the treatment of Diphtheria, serum should be given at the earliest possible moment, and preferably in one adequately large dose.

The doctor should never wait for the laboratory report before giving antitoxin if he considers on clinical grounds that the patient may be suffering from Diphtheria.

Every attempt should be made by means of 'bus or passenger train services, special messenger, or by personal delivery to ensure that the swab reaches the laboratory in as short a time as possible after it is taken.

It is important to obtain immediate medical advice in cases of suspected Diphtheria.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS) DURING THE YEAR, 1946.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total cases notified.</u>
Erysipelas.	2
Measles.	4
Whooping Cough.	2
Scarlet Fever.	<u>3</u>
	11
	<u>=</u>

AMBULANCE. For non-infectious cases and accidents, the St. John Ambulance Association provide an ambulance.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1946.

<u>Age Period.</u>	<u>New Cases</u>				<u>Deaths</u>			
	<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>		<u>Respiratory</u>		<u>Non-Respiratory</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
5 - 10 years-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 20 years-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 - 25 years-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
25 - 35 years-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
35 - 45 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55 years	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55 - 70 years	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
70 and over	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>TOTALS</u>	3	1	-	-	4	-	-	-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY (i) The source of water for the district is at South Brent, and is supplied in bulk by the Kingsbridge and Salcombe Water Board, being satisfactory in quality and quantity; (ii) 10 samples

of water secured from a domestic tap in the district were submitted for bacteriological examination. All proved satisfactory; (iii) one sample for chemical analysis was taken, when no traces of zinc, copper or lead were detected; (iv) chlorination is effected at the Board's Works at South Brent; and (v) it is estimated that 98% of the population are supplied by water direct from the Council's mains, the remaining 2% are dependant on private supplies.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. No sewerage scheme of note has been carried out during the year. The Consulting Engineers have been instructed to prepare a Report on the sewage outfalls on the foreshore.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. No complaints have been received during the year. The weekly collection and the disposal of refuse on the Council's tip has continued satisfactorily.

HOUSING. The position at the end of the year was as follows :-
(i) 52 families housed in requisitioned houses; (ii) the building of 8 houses (permanent) in Camperdown Road was commenced; (iii) 18 temporary houses were erected and occupied in St. Dunstan's Road; (iv) approval given for the erection of 5 houses in Church Street, 4 in Camperdown Road and 12 in St. Dunstan's Road; (v) approval to be sought in the near future for the erection of a further 14 houses in Kingsale Road; and (vi) the list of families requiring houses on 31st December, 1946, was 124. This number is likely to be increased when routine inspection of houses under the Housing Act, 1936, is recommenced.

FOOD SUPPLIES. The following foodstuffs were condemned as being unfit for human consumption :- 208 lbs. oranges, 30 lbs. sultanas; 65 lbs. of miscellaneous articles (tinned milk, meat, etc).

BAKEHOUSES. The 4 bakehouses in the area have been inspected regularly.

SCHOOLS. There are three Schools in the district. The sanitary accommodation at 2 of the schools is still very poor.

During the year 4 notices were received referring to 7 children who were excluded from school because of communicable disease or because they were contacts.

They were as follows :-

Scarlet Fever	3
Measles	1
Scabies	2
Impetigo	1

DISINFECTION. Routine disinfection has been carried out after all notified cases of infectious disease.

<u>NUISANCES.</u>	Number of complaints received	6
	Number of notices served.	6
	Number of nuisances abated	6

I am,
Your obedient Servant,

W. C. SMALES,

Medical Officer of Health.

